THE

FIRST ONE HUNDRED

YEARS

1871—1971

Preface

This history of the first 100 years of the Quinnipiack Club speaks for itself as a record of the way a small and highly personal undertaking by a few citizens has become a significant community enterprise for New Haven.

It has been prepared as part of the club's Centennial Celebration — which has also encompassed a formal ball and a separate member reception, the placing of a bronze plaque in the main lobby of the building, the dedication of our newly acquired conference table for the Governors' Room, and the design and preparation of centennial mementoes (tie pins and cosmetic sets) for every member of the club and his lady.

The Centennial Committee, under the chairmanship of William Fox Geenty, has included: Frederick T. Backstrom, Christopher H. Buckley, George H. Coe, Stanley R. Cullen, Richard W. Davis, Hubert C. Hodge, Robert W. Knott, Howard W. Maschmeier, Robert I. Metcalf, Donald A. Miller, Frank O'Brion, Richard Thomas, Carl W. Taylor, Charles E. Woods, Jr., and myself.

In writing this history I have drawn upon the carefully kept archives and club records in the hands of Carl W. Taylor, secretary and past president, and upon the judgment and advice of Club Manager Edward J. Drew and of member-printer Roger Addil. I have had the benefit of some previous historical explorations by Richard O. Gibbs. And I have gained perspective from "Three Centuries Of New Haven" by Rollin G. Osterweis and much subsidiary information from the staff and the resources of The New Haven Colony Historical Society. To all I extend my thanks.

Robert J. Leeney
March, 1971

They could hardly have envisioned today's Quinnipiack Club with its chimneyed dignity and its Georgian-wrapped comforts shouldered in between high office buildings. Nor would they have imagined chefs, and waiters, and a full-time office staff. Or the automatic precision of the pin-setters in the bowling alleys. Or the management challenge in providing over 75,000 quality meals a year.

Or a Greek-revival Courthouse with bullet-proofed windows across the street.

Or the multi-lane rush of five o'clock traffic past the front door.

But if looking forward is always difficult, looking backward is no easier.

What did they have in mind — those 20 young men who were charter members — when they met to form a club, and called it the "Ours" Club, and rented two rooms in the Hoadley Building at the corner of Church and Crown Streets?

They were probably expressing an urge as old as the separate cave for warriors, or the Indian long house for the braves. But they were also reflecting a growing America's attempts to find in city living, in industrialization, and in the increasing social complications of the late 19th century some of the neighborly affinities and the easy understandings which had flourished in a colonial nation of villages and small towns. These values were fading fast in the economic bustle, the rapid factory growth, and the tides of immigration that could all be measured in New Haven after the Civil War.

This was a community of about 50,000 people in 1870. It was to double in size by the turn of the century. And amid such flux a friendly place downtown had much to recommend it. Young businessmen lived in rooming houses in those days. And young married men were usually crowded into small flats or houses. Domestic comforts were few. Even running water was a central city specialty. And in a way we can hardly comprehend it was necessary to congregate in groups to share good lighting, informal music or song, social chitchat, business rumor, political discussion, or any of the gregarious sensations in which we can inundate ourselves today by the flick of a switch.

Their inclination to hang together was not unique. The nation, it seems, was ripe for an upsurge of clubs in the wake of the Civil War. The intellectual elite of London and of Paris had been giving club membership a good and even glamorous name since the Sixteen-Hundreds. In the 18th century there had been a national blooming of Masonic chapters, and of agricultural societies between the Revolution and 1850. Such groups were plentiful in the New Haven area. And at Yale the secret societies had already taken root — Skull and Bones in 1832 and Scroll and Key in 1841. The former had built its tomb at 64 High Street in 1856, the latter its tomb at College and Wall Streets in 1869. So there was visual evidence of club quality and club strength to anyone who walked the campus area.

In New York the Union, the Century, and the University Clubs were all operating before 1865. Boston's Brahmins, who developed club life in this country to its highest measure of social sensibility — and snobbery — had set up the Temple Club in 1829, the Tremont (which flourishes today as the Somerset) in 1851, and the Union Club in 1863.

Those elegant Washington Clubs, the Metropolitan and the Cosmos — which have borne so much of the brunt of the ideological and political warfare over club memberships in recent years — were still to be developed almost a decade after the organization in this city of the "Ours" Club.

So it was in this context — of events, and attitudes, and availabilities — that the Quinnipiack Club had its beginnings.

On March 22, 1871, in the "parlors" of the New Haven Grays, the local National Guard Regiment, "A body of gentlemen convened for the purpose of taking preliminary steps toward the organization of a Social Club, met pursuant to the call of one of their number . . . and proceeded to discuss the object of the meeting and the most feasible plans for carrying out the same."

The outcome of their discussion was a paper signed by the majority of those present: "We, the undersigned, hereby form a temporary organization for the purpose of establishing a Social Club when the minimum number of twenty have signed this agreement and bind ourselves to pay any assessments made on us when such club is established, not exceeding fifty dolls (cq) ($50) for the first six months."

One week later on March 29 they met again. In a series of moves, as precise and well-formed as the Spencerian copper-plate handwriting of the minutes in which they are recorded, the group elected their officers and an executive committee, accepted the report of a committee on by-laws and a constitution, empowered the executive committee to lease rooms "in Hoadley's building cor Church and Crown Sts and to make such alterations in said rooms as they in their judgement (cq) should see fit", and decided that the regular meetings of their society would be held

on the first Wednesday evening of each month at half past eight o'clock.

The first Wednesday of April came seven days later, and they met again — 19 present — in the Grays Parlor. "The subject of a title for our Society was then offered and commented upon", but it was left for future consideration. "The opportunity was then offered the members to pay the Treasurer the first assessment of fifteen dollars ($15) which was responded to by all present." The group left it to the Executive Committee "to negotiate for such furniture as they should see fit" for the club rooms, with the prudent understanding that expenditures would not exceed the amount subscribed ($285).

Regular meetings were then called and listed in the minutes book, but "indefinitely postponed . . . on account of the noncompletion of our Society rooms", in May, June, July and August 1871. The formal listing, with postponement, probably permitted collection of dues for these months and gave clear evidence that the club was not languishing.

And finally on Sept. 6, 1871 there is the flourishing entry: "Club Rooms, J. Hoadley's Building, Regular Monthly Meeting."

Fourteen members answered the roll call. The executive committee rendered a statement of expenditures and liabilities. A vote of thanks was "tendered the Pres'dt, Vice Pres'dt and Sec'y for their gift to the Club of a Swing Pitcher and Goblets."

After much discussion of a name for the club there was an informal ballot "which resulted in whole no. of votes cast, fourteen, of which 'Ours' received seven, 'Carpe Diem' five,

'Our Own' one, and 'Elm City' one." A recess of five minutes was declared by the chair after which the choice of "Ours" was made unanimous.

Some hint of what the founders were thinking emerges in this consideration of club names. "Ours" seems today to have a note of exclusivity and self-sufficiency. But it is also simple and unself-conscious, a casual name and one hardly designed to impress. "Carpe Diem", which almost carried the vote, is quite the opposite in its epicurean, even hedonistic, overtones: "Seize The Day" (for tomorrow we die) sounds more like a fraternity of youthful funsters than like a gathering of gentlemanly New England clerks.

And that, for the most part, is what the 20 charter members of the "Ours" Club were: up-and-coming young fellows in various fields of commercial endeavor in New Haven.

As listed in their first "club book", a 15-page pocket pamphlet, they were:

Fred B. Mallory, president; G. Edward Hine, vice president; E. P. Merwin, secretary-treasurer; Frank A. Monson, Minot E. Robinson, T. C. Lewis, and George H. Ford, all members of the executive committee; and Charles Monson, Edward M. Clark, William H. Chapman, Marcus B. Newton, Frederick B. Thompson, Edward A. Brooks, J. H. Phillips, Fred W. Wilcox, A. C. Shelton, Edward T. Carrington, J. Dent Stevenson, H. S. Whittlesey, and H. C. Bowers.

Fred Mallory, the president, was employed by Wheeler and Company, a hardware firm advertising tin, glass, and wooden ware in its Chapel Street store. Vice president Hine, young but prosperous, was president of the New Haven Spring Company. E. P. Merwin, the secretary-treasurer, was a merchant tailor.

In "Benham's New Haven Directory for 1871-72" they are sparsely described: clerk, bookkeeper, bank clerk, salesman, marble cutter (in his father's stone yard). They were part of the new commerce in a city just finding itself as a city: one making buggy whips, one a jeweler and watch dealer, one in "hats, caps, furs, and trunks", another in looking glasses and picture frames. There was a young member of the Carrington family, publishers of The Journal-Courier, a grocer, a crockery salesman.

A few lived in family homes. Most, the directory indicates, "boarded" in their places of residence — which meant that they slept and ate among strangers or casual acquaintances and may well have hungered for a warm circle of friends and a place in which to share their friendship.

Hoadley's Building was then the pride of the community, brand new, four stories high, its cast-iron facade a triumph of elegance and durability, a "New York-style" retail emporium on its ground floor, its upper floors abuzz with many enterprises. It stood where the Connecticut Savings Bank now stands at Church and Crown Streets.

The "Ours" Club rules were simple:

"1. Playing at games of any kind on Sunday is prohibited.

"2. The use of liquors, and playing at games of chance for money in the Club Rooms is prohibited."

When adopting the rules the members at first considered a stricture as teetotal tight against gaming as against drinking. But on second thought the phrase "for money" was added to Rule 2, and the card table was given an acceptable role in the club's patterns of congeniality.

The Hoadley Building, corner of Church and Crown Streets, where the "Ours" Club rented rooms in 1871.

The members started off busily. They chose Cherry as their club color, arranged to hang photographs of every "Ours"-man framed in black walnut and cherry velvet on the walls of their clubrooms, distributed to each member a key to the two-room suite, installed personal box lockers (22 of them), hired a janitor who probably had to keep

an evening fire going in the rooms, and spread upon the record their thanks for the "decorative bronzes" and the stags head which were then, as now, the certified symbols of any masculine hideaway.

In January of 1872 they discussed with new member Simon B. Shoninger, an instrument dealer, his offer to sell them a grand piano advantageously. Action on the piano was postponed. But the next month someone proposed purchase of a billiard table, postponement was not even considered, and it was voted to buy the table with "least possible delay." Later in the year they took advantage of the Shoninger piano offer — at about the same time they voted to replace the matting around the billiard table because it was worn through.

In April, shortly after the club's first anniversary, the members of "Ours" enjoyed some political, and perhaps social, distinction when they held a reception in their club rooms for Connecticut Governor Marshall Jewell and his staff. It was an election year and even the springtime presence of the top Republican, a Hartford resident, probably had some significance in those days of slow communication. At any rate the club embraced the event with such enthusiasm that a $78 "deficiency" was reported by the Treasurer in May and a special assessment to recoup the expenses of the reception was levied in June.

Good fellowship and comfortable affluence are reflected in their decision to present "a $50 clock" to every member "who commits matrimony", in their plans to provide informal reception for ladies and gentlemen on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month, and in the staging of a Christmas "entertainment" at the club rooms on the night of December 25, 1872.

With fraternal fortitude the "Ours" met on New Year's night, 1873 — the first Wednesday — and after brief business the 12 members present "by invitation visited the rooms of the Mercantile Club, where they were hospitably entertained, and then paid their respects to his honor Mayor Lewis at his residence."

In February a special meeting voted to conclude with the Shoninger company an agreement whereby an "orchestral grand" piano would be installed for $500 plus the old Chickering on which the evening hours had been whiled away during the club's first year. In March a new carom billiard table came in on an exchange for the old table plus $100. So the quiet contest continued between ivory keys and ivory cue-ball as the primary evidences of ease and refinement at the "Ours".

In May there must have been big doings. The national reunion of the Grand Army of the Republic was held in New Haven. Generals Sherman, Sheridan, Hancock, McDowell and Burnside were here and their presence was capped by that of the President of the United States, Ulysses S. Grant.

At the May meeting of "Ours" Vice President Whittlesey spoke "in regard to the propriety of extending the hospitality of 'Ours' to the 'Home Circle' Club of Hartford and the 'Eclectic' of Bridgeport on Thursday, May 15th, the day of the Grand Military Review in honor of President Grant." Member Tracy Warren enthusiastically moved that an assessment of $3 per member be laid to support the party — but his motion did not carry. Instead member Frederick B. Thompson moved "that every member of 'Ours' who had recently been so grandly entertained by the 'Home Circle'

Club of Hartford be allowed individually to reciprocate the same." This motion, putting no strain upon the club treasury, passed unanimously.

In a club which forbade gaming and drinking in its rooms there is no evidence of how visitors to the club rooms could be "grandly entertained". But there are hints of heady good fellowship on many occasions. In June 1872, with the first annual supper coming up "the President sounded the ideas of the Club as to what it should consist of, etc., etc." And the minutes duly report: "The cry of 'Fish supper' was heard in a remote corner of the room, but the decisive tones of those calling for a wine supper overwhelmed everything and carried the day."

The next summer, in 1873 the club's first president, Fred Mallory moved "that a band of 12 pcs. and an excursion car be engaged, and an assessment of ten dollars ($10) instead of seven dollars ($7) per member be laid. Carried." And then on Thursday, July 3, the adjourned Annual Meeting of the "Ours" took place at the Beach House, West Haven.

"Per order of the President the Bill of Fares were dispensed to the members but the awful despair that seized upon the hungry mortals in perceiving them to be printed in an 'unknown tongue' is something I will not attempt to describe," wrote the Secretary. "The soup was duly served by the aid of interpreters from Paris, and the members began to feel better. The course being finished the President called upon the senators to listen to the Secretary and the Treasurer's reports . . .

"By the kindness of the President, Bill of Fares were now passed around printed in a language that all might read and

understand and the supper went swimmingly on: 'bully beef' and other choice viands being in constant demand."

Officers were elected and a club history was read.

"A unanimous vote of thanks and three hearty cheers were given Mr. Stevenson (the historian) and the retiring officers of the club. Time passed pleasantly during the rest of the supper, aided by the music of the band, and about 1 a.m. members began to retire from the table and prepare for the homeward trip, after having given three times three to the Supper Committee and the newly elected officers.

"New Haven was reached at about 2 a.m., and after having given a serenade to His Excellency Governor Ingersoll (whose house still stands at the corner of Elm and Temple Streets) the Club quietly separated to their homes, apparently elated with success of the annual Club Supper."

Despite the natural jollity of such occasions, the club and its membership underwent periods of tension and of change which the minutes sparingly reflect but — perhaps wisely — do not explain. There were individual resignations — and delegations to seek the reconsideration of some of those resigning. It was voted, perhaps after too many sessions of strained bad jokes, to have a violinist present for the Ladies' Night meetings on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the winter months. The music-minded Mr. Shoninger apparently found things growing a little drab and in November, 1873 the subject of "making the rooms more attractive" was brought up by him in a motion which provided punitively "that each member should spend one evening a month in the rooms from eight o'clock to ten. After some discussion it was unanimously passed."

On May 5, 1874 a "full dress" reception was given in the club rooms for Gov. Charles Ingersoll. Perhaps it made up for the 2 a.m. "serenade" of the previous summer, or perhaps it merely gave a local Democrat as Governor the same courtesies extended to his Hartford Republican predecessor. At any rate, the club was now so sophisticated in such matters that it recorded plans in its minutes before the affair was held but had no comment beyond the laconic comment the next day, on May 6 — the normal monthly meeting date — "there being no quorum present no meeting was called."

Dissatisfaction with the club quarters had apparently set in. There was discussion of a move at two separate meetings, and on January 6, 1875 the minutes report the club had been installed in rooms in the new Insurance Building. This was another New Haven "sky-scraper", standing on Chapel Street, between Church and Gregson alley. It was built to house the offices of the American National Life and Trust Company, of which Benjamin Noyes was president. In its latter years it was familiar to New Haveners (up to the Nineteen-Fifties) as home of the Gamble-Desmond department store.

Some of the motivation for the change of quarters arose from money needs. Mr. Noyes of the Insurance Building outbid the Hoadley's Building management with a free-wheeling offer of rooms, heat, water, and janitor services without cost for five months, $250 for the 12 months from May 1875 to May, 1876, and then $350 to May, 1877. The spirit of economy thus awakened, led to further cutbacks and the secretary eventually noted — aggrievedly — that the newspaper subscription to "Wilkie's Spirit Of The Times" had been cancelled "thereby reducing the Club ex-

penses the enormous sum of one dollar and twenty-five cents per quarter."

The annual supper in 1875, it was noted, would "be accommodated at the Double Beach House, with everything that could be desired, for Five Dollars a plate, including Wine, Cigars, and Transportation there."

In 1875 there began in the "Ours" Club a subtle and sudden process of change which is hard to explain from available records. For its first three years the organization had clearly provided a satisfactory social outlet for its members. But there is little to indicate that it had any particular impact in the community. Its membership had undergone some changes, but not a great many. The basic group of 20 "Ours"-men, while maturing and moving ahead in business terms, did not seem a nucleus for community leadership.

The new rooms in the Insurance Building could hardly have made a great difference. The recorded emphasis on economy seem to reflect no strong certainty about club directions. Perhaps the growth of New Haven and the expanding demand for some better kind of business and social forum among the city's prospering businessmen asserted itself.

At any rate, it becomes noticeable in the 1875 records that a higher level of community involvement and community leadership is reflected in the membership. And the "Ours" Club seems to be proceeding purposefully toward a sort of "blue ribbon" membership. The easy fish and chowder parties by the shore, and the small winter groups around the billiard table would never again be quite so limited.

On November 3, 1875 came a meeting at which 18 members — a usual number — answered the roll call. The tone

of the minutes does not change, but the action is different. Four new members are taken in by standard procedures and unanimously elected, in the secretary's words, "as regular action members" — which means, presumably, that their names had been posted and considered in advance by the membership.

Among these was the Mayor of the City of New Haven, the Hon. Henry G. Lewis.

Next, the regular rules on advance notice were suspended and the club elected: Charles S. Mitchell, E. H. Barnes, E. L. Cowles, and the Hon. Nehemiah D. Sperry. Here was another "establishment" group, the first three of them manufacturers, the last, Postmaster of New Haven and powerhouse of the Republican Party in Connecticut.

The taking-in of Mayor Lewis and N. D. Sperry in a single meeting heralded things to come in club affairs, for these were not men of casual manner or relaxed temperament. Mayor Lewis was a rich wheel manufacturer with a vigorously enlightened concern for civic progress. New Haven's park system, its first charities department, its first library, its first sewer system were all created with his backing.

Nehemiah D. Sperry was an equally impressive personality. As a young man he had participated in formative actions of the Republican Party before the Lincoln election. He was appointed Postmaster by Abraham Lincoln. In the Civil War years and thereafter he became the key Republican politician in Connecticut and that party's habitual state chairman. He was the Postmaster in this city for six terms under seven Presidents, and in his tenure the New Haven Post Office was rated the most efficient postoffice in the United States.

That he did not take his "Ours" Club election lightly is evidenced by the fact — perhaps not entirely forseeable in 1875 — that after it became the Quinnipiack Club he was its president for 20 years, from 1876-77 through 1897.

At any rate, change was in the air that night. The one dollar fine for non-attendance at meetings was suspended — perhaps because steady attendance would no longer be a key to club solvency or strength. And though there is nothing specifically said about a membership change, or a shift in direction for the club, there was a motion made — and tabled — that all monies received for new members be laid aside to form a club Fund.

Two weeks later, on November 16, a special meeting authorized the executive committee to move on the leasing of a third clubroom, the cutting of an entrance door to it from the regular rooms, and the renovation and fitting-out of the enlarged quarters.

In December a committee was set up to revise the by-laws and constitution. Eighteen new members were elected — almost as many as had formed the original "Ours" Club. In January, 13 more names were added to the roster. In February there were 10 new names. And in March, 11. In all, in the 12 months from November, 1875 to November, 1876, 89 new members were elected to club membership. Many were names of substance in New Haven: Scranton, Hotchkiss, Winchester, Mersick, Whitney, English, Osborn, Peck, Ingersoll, Reed, Hoadley and the like.

Things did not proceed like clockwork — even with the "power structure" in the club. There were representations to the Building Committee about the lack of heat in the

rooms in January. There were efforts to hold the enlarged membership in line with prim new rules:

"Resolved, That pool selling or any game for gain or loss, great or small, in the club rooms shall be considered a misconduct and members so engaged shall be treated accordingly.

"Resolved, That the use of profane or vulgar conversation in the rooms of the club are inconsistent with its pretenses to be a gentlemen's club and that henceforth such language shall be considered a misconduct on the part of the member using it, and he be treated accordingly.

"Resolved, That any member of the club who shall be engaged in playing any game in the rooms of the club or continuing the festivities of the week after 12 o'clock Saturday night shall be guilty of misconduct and treated accordingly."

At the April meeting in 1876 a club constitution, revised in great detail from the original laws of the "Ours" Club was discussed and adopted.

Amid a flurry of motions, tablings, amendments, and rereadings, Mayor Henry G. Lewis moved to amend by changing the name of the club to the Davenport Club. He lost. Mr. D. C. Eaton then proposed a change to New Haven Club. The old guard held fast for "Ours". Amid the tension charter member George H. Ford moved, "in way of compromise", that the name Union be substituted for Ours. The compromise won, and for about four weeks the "Union" label showed. Then at the May meeting of the club the legality of the vote changing the name was challenged; after deliberation the chair decided that there was con-

fusion in the vote, and the name of the club remained "Ours".

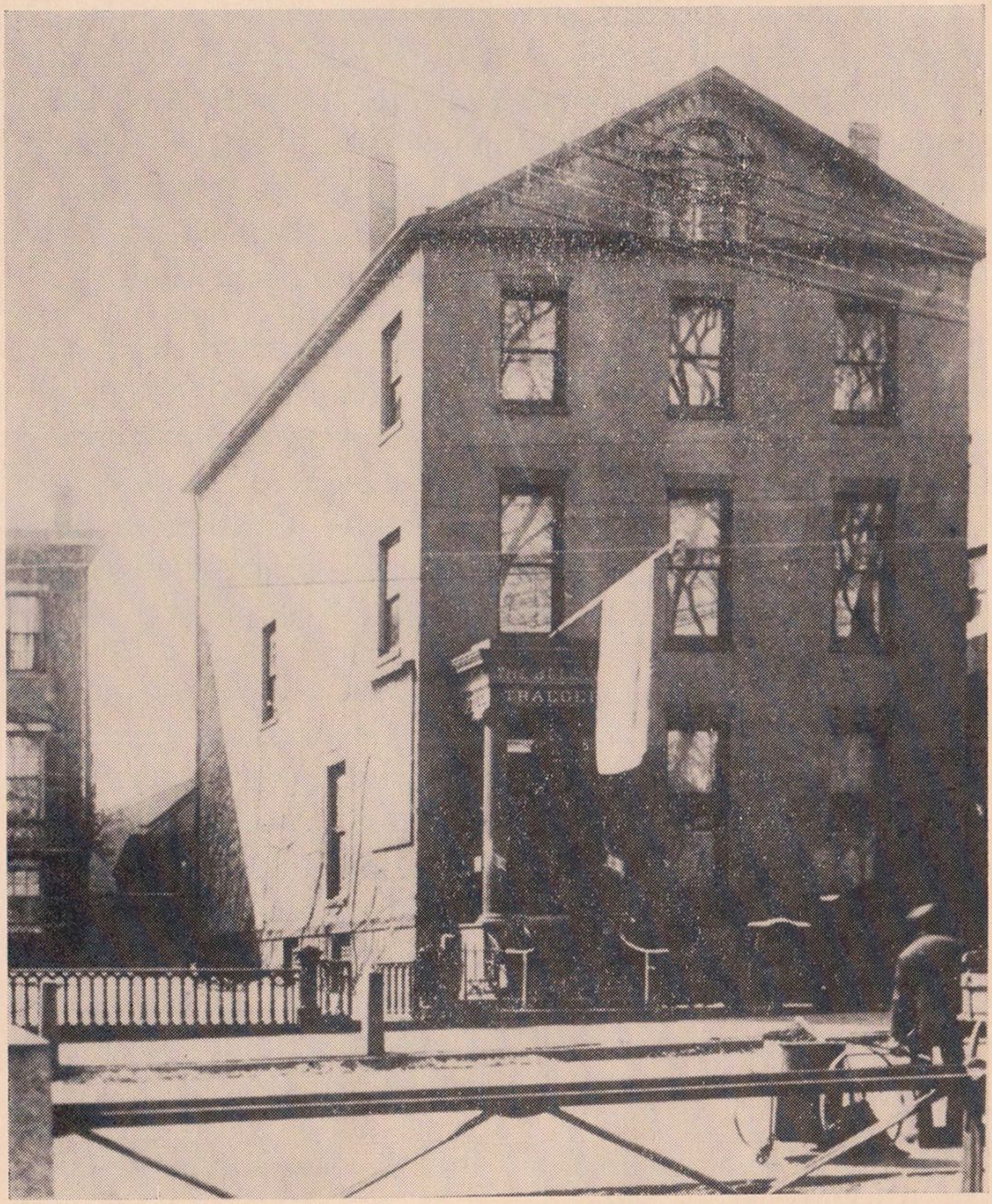
At the annual meeting later in May of 1876 Nehemiah D. Sperry was elected president of the "Ours" Club. Following his unanimous re-election at the annual meeting of 1877, Sperry waited through the summer and then — after a membership vote — appointed a five-man committee to report a new name for the club. On December 5, 1877 the "Ours" Club officially became the Quinnipiack Club.

The change of name was all a part of the widening concept of the club's function. While the "name" committee was making its choice, a special meeting on November 3 resolved "that the club buy a house suitable for club purposes". Later in November there was a decision to push ahead with the leasing of a house which stood at what was then 416 Chapel Street.

On March 6, 1878, the club accepted a charter from the General Assembly of the State of Connecticut, providing that such persons as are now or may hereafter be associated with it "be and hereby are constituted a body politic and corporate, by the name of the Quinnipiack Club, to be located in the City of New Haven, for establishing and maintaining a library, reading room, gallery of art, and for the promotion of city improvements and social intercourse by such lawful means as shall be expedient and proper for the above named purposes."

That June the membership voted to issue bonds to defray the expenses of furnishing the new club house. And finally, in October, 1878, the first meeting of the club was held in its new home.

This was an elaborate clubhouse for its day. It was in the Elias Shipman House, which stood on Chapel Street a few



The Elias Shipman House, Chapel Street just above Temple, home of the Quinnipiack Club from 1878 until 1889. This old photograph dates from about 1890 after the club had moved and the building had been taken over as Traeger's Inn and Restaurant.

doors above Temple. It faced the Green and the pillared Greek-style State House which stood behind Center Church. Built in 1790 by a wealthy Long Wharf shipping merchant, the founder of the New Haven Insurance Company and first president of the Chamber of Commerce, the building was three-quarters of a century old when the Club took it over.

But in its day it had been so stately and ambitious a dwelling — with 15-foot ceilings even in its third-floor rooms — that the old Yankee merchants of New Haven had called it "Shipman's Folly". Amid its revived splendors the members of the Quinnipiack Club basked in an aura of growing prestige.

The transformation from "Ours", a limited social club, to Quinnipiack, a modern community club, had come about in little more than six years.

If change and growth had been swift in the beginning, events seemed now to settle down. The Quinnipiack Club and its members had defined a role which they followed soberly and perhaps even righteously. The solid businessmen of the community and the political leadership drawn from the Yankee elite found in the club a center of communication. They passed a by-law, for instance, giving first intimations of a generation gap and banning intrusions by Yale undergraduates — no matter who brought them in — unless they were the sons of club members. When the world's first commercial telephone exchange opened in New Haven in 1878, one of the subscribers was the Quinnipiack Club — and almost every name on the list was that of a club member or the company a club member headed. The manning of the telephone in the Chapel Street clubhouse was one of the more serious considerations of the house committee.

This was the period which historian Rollin G. Osterweis has described in "Three Centuries of New Haven" under the title "Emergence Of A Modern City".

It was the period in which water and gas distribution became general throughout the city, in which major streets were paved downtown, in which the suburbs of Fair Haven and Westville became parts of the mother city and were linked by horse-car lines on frequent schedules, in which the first sewers were tried, in which a hospital and health services, East Rock Park with its Civil War monument, the new brownstone City Hall, the jail on Whalley Avenue, the first city library, were all the results of dynamic activity over little more than a 20-year span.

At the annual meeting in May, 1886 club president Sperry, just retired as the New Haven Postmaster, was saluted for his 10 years of service and leadership in the Quinnipiack Club as well. The membership at that point was 96 — 71 in the resident category, 15 non-resident, 4 on the absent list, 2 exempt, and 3 honorary.

The report of the Treasurer for the following year showed that the Quinnipiack Club started fiscal 1886 with $12,465 cash in hand and closed out the following April with an annual expenditure of $11,509. The big items were $6,532 for supplies and $968 for services — presumably the services of a small staff. Coal and wood cost $195; gas and electric light, $530; furniture, $225 and refurnishing, $876; the telephone bill was $50.45; a broad range of newspaper subscriptions ran to $127; receptions cost $253 (probably a measure of investment in ladies' affairs); and the rent was $1,200.

On March 16, 1888, amid mountainous drifts from the howling four-day blizzard which had buried the city in its heaviest recorded snow, a sturdy handful of the membership led by President Sperry gathered at the club "to take suitable action upon the death of Gen. Albermarle Cady, our late member." Funeral services for the general, who was 81 years old, had been held that afternon at the New Haven House where he lived, because there was no place else the services could be held while 15- and 20-foot snowdrifts clogged downtown New Haven.

A native of New Hampshire, born in 1807, Gen. Cady was graduated from West Point in 1829. He saw service on the Great Plains, was wounded and decorated in the Mexican War, was on duty on the Western Frontier, held posts in Oregon and at the Presidio in San Francisco during the early Civil War, came here (at age 57) to command the "draft rendezvous at New Haven" in 1864 and '65, and stayed in this city when retired at the end of the war.

"As one of the oldest members of this club," note the minutes, "he has occupied most of his time reading the scientific works and other literature of the day, storing his mind with useful knowledge."

Old Gen. Cady was, obviously, a quintessential club member; quiet, perhaps a bit curmudgeonly, omni-present in the reading rooms. "His personal intimacies," says the memorial resolution, "were few in number, but his circle of kindly feeling and friendship embraced his entire acquaintance."

He was, however, on the committee which recommended that the name Quinnipiack be ours. And what makes the general historically interesting in Club terms is the fact

that he was on the rolls of the "Ours" Club, on the rolls of the Quinnipiack Club, and on the rolls of an obscure predecessor group, The Loyal Club, which existed in New Haven from 1862 to 1870 and which deserves some mention in our chronicles.

The only known record of the Loyal Club is a small leather-bound journal in the archives of the Quinnipiack Club. How it became a part of the club records is not known. How its brief history relates to that of the "Ours" Club is unclear — but intriguing enough to justify a small excursion into fact and speculation.

The Loyal Club was organized on February 22, 1862 (Washington's Birthday). Its object: "social intercourse among gentlemen who can tolerate the prejudices of each other." Its basic limitation, written during the Civil War: "No one shall become a member who is not known to be loyal to the Union and Constitution of the United States." It had a fitful history, meeting regularly but with evident problems in holding its members and in maintaining sufficient operating funds. And finally at the annual meeting on Washington's Birthday, 1870, eight years after its founding, the club voted "that a committee of three be appointed to sell the property of the Club to the best advantage and apply the proceeds to the payment of the debts of the Club." Among the 14 members voting was Gen. Albermarle Cady.

It is notable that William E. Sanford, whose name is second on the first-meeting roster of the Loyal Club, joined the "Ours" Club in October, 1871, a month after its club rooms opened. And later on William S. Charnley, a Loyal Club founder and an intermittent president and rallying figure for that group, became a committee-worker and member of the Quinnipiack Club.

Title page from the first club handbook, 1871-72.

Though there is no significant overlapping of names from one club to another these few slight connections can hardly be noted without wondering whether the experiences, frustrations, and advices of those who had put much hope into the Loyal Club between 1862 and 1870 may not have been

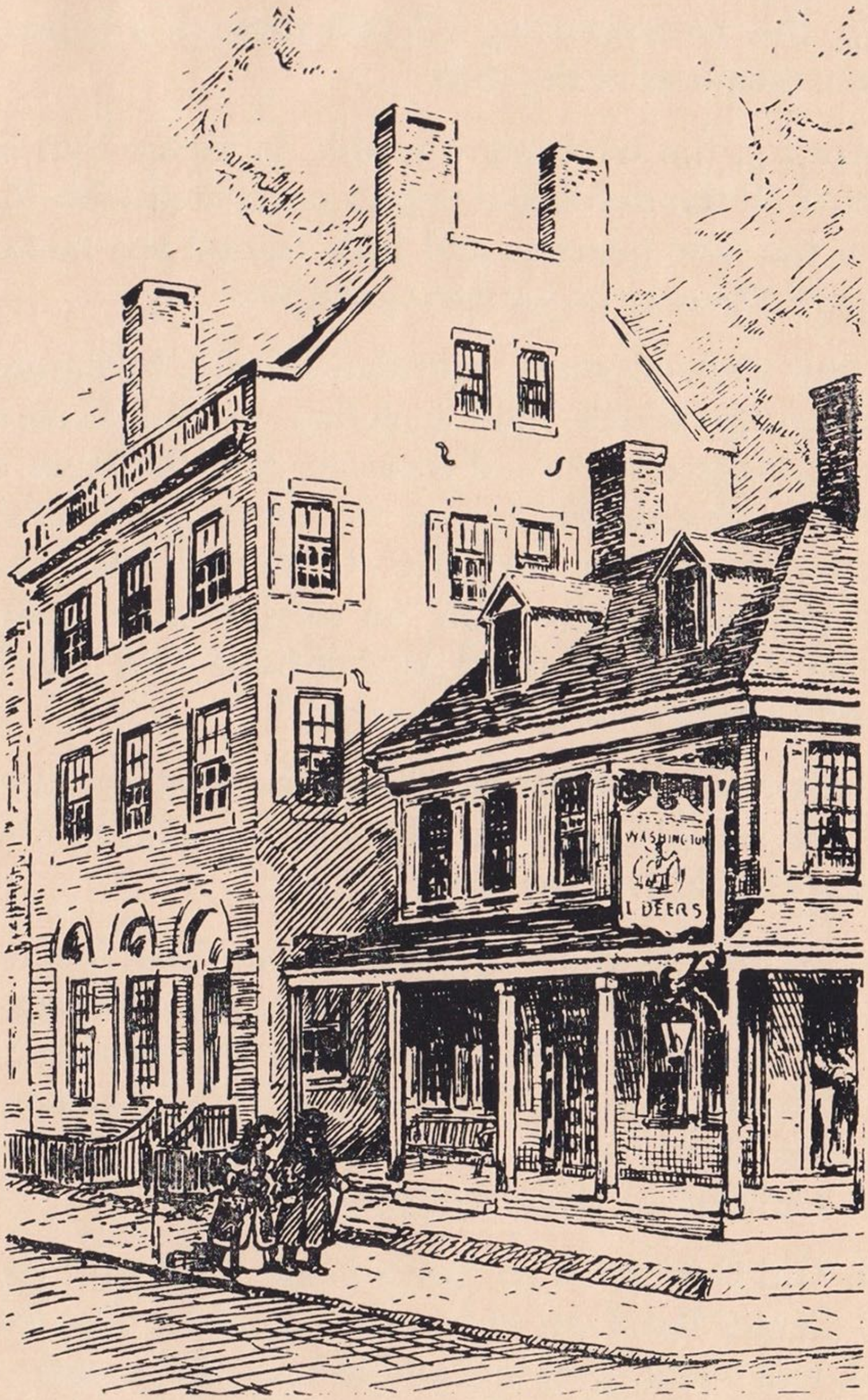
drawn upon in some unrecorded way for the smooth-working, successful launching of the "Ours" Club.

Whatever the uncertainties of the club beginnings, the Quinnipiack Club continued to move steadily ahead with Nehemiah D. Sperry as its helmsman. In February, 1889, a Special Meeting gave full endorsement to plans made by the governors and "the Committee of 5" for purchase of a new clubhouse, one even more stately than the leased Shipman House. This was to be the mansion designed for the rich druggist, Joseph Darling, by Ithiel Town, architect of Trinity Church on the Green. This large-windowed, spacious home faced the Green from a prime location on Chapel Street near College, where it adjoined the city's main hostelry, the New Haven House.

It was only a half-block up Chapel Street from the old Shipman place. But it had been built about 25 years later, in 1812, and its distinguished designer had given it far more graceful and imposing lines. It had later been occupied by the family of Augustus Street who built the New Haven House next door. And before the Quinnipiack Club moved in, the stately old house had been briefly christened for club use by the University Club which was in those days attempting to provide a Yale undergraduate social center.

The governors and their committee planned carefully for this step upward in club facilities. They proposed to spend $25,000 for the house and $15,000 for "any and all alterations, additions and furnishings."

The Hon. James E. English, club member, former Connecticut governor and former U. S. Senator, head of the New Haven Clock Company and a founder of the First National Bank of New Haven, agreed to give the club a



A sketch of the Darling House in the Eighteen-Fifties, when it was occupied by Augustus Street who built and operated the New Haven House next door. The Quinnipiack Club added a fourth story about 1904.

first mortgage of $20,000. With $3,000 on hand in the club treasury, this meant raising $17,000 through a subscription loan from members of the club.

By April 1, the treasurer was able to report that he had completed all the deeds and papers connected with the purchase of the new quarters and had "caused the building at 986 Chapel Street to be insured for $8,000."

The new club, of course, provided a fitting background for a membership which now included several Connecticut governors, congressmen and senators. And the sense of historic perspective developing in the Quinnipiack Club was evidenced in another way that October when James E. English presented to the club "an elegant chair made from the wood of the celebrated Woodbridge Oak which was supposed to be at least 2,000 years old."

The chair is best described in the account prepared and distributed in 1944 to all members of the club by the then secretary, Harold J. Manchester.

"One of the treasured possessions of The Quinnipiack Club is The President's Chair, an oak chair standing in the Board of Governors Room and used by the President at the Annual Meetings of the Club. The chair was presented to the Club in 1889, and is constructed from wood from the historic 'Old Oak' of Woodbridge.

"The 'Old Oak' stood on North Pease Road near the junction of Center Road. Its circumference, three feet from the ground, was twenty-two feet and its spread was some ninety feet. Its age in 1882 was variously estimated at from 1,250 to 2,000 years.

"Several traditions and legends were connected with the

tree. The theory was offered that it was the oldest tree on the Atlantic coast. The regicides were said to have used its top-most branches as a lookout, and mariners as a guide. A portion of the French army under Lafayette when marching from New Haven to the relief of Danbury are said to have lunched in its shade. It may have furnished the inspiration for the poet Woodworth for the stanzas we now know as 'The Old Oaken Bucket.'

"On October 3, 1882, a celebration was held in Woodbridge to honor the 'Old Oak' under the leadership of Honorable N. D. Sperry, an ardent admirer of the old tree. Great preparations were made to welcome and feed the several hundred guests from Woodbridge and the surrounding towns who were to attend. Mr. Sperry opened the celebration by proposing the formation of 'The Quinnipiack Oak Tree Association,' and suggested as its officers Honorable James English, President; Thomas Trowbridge, Governor Bigelow, Stephen Perkins, Henry Lewis, Theron Todd, Daniel Eaton, Phineas Peck, E. S. Quintard, Lyman Manville and Lewis Russell, Vice Presidents; Henry Trowbridge, Henry E. Baldwin and Charles J. Peck, Secretaries.

"In the course of his remarks Mr. Sperry said: 'No people have more reason to revere the Oak than the people of New Haven, as it was at the oaks that John Davenport preached the first sermon to the people who laid the foundation of our beautiful and prosperous city. It was the oak at Hartford that held the time-honored charter of Connecticut granted by the King of England.'

"The Quinnipiack Oak Tree Association attempted to acquire title to the tree, but its negotiations with the owner were not successful, and the project was abandoned. Very

soon after that the tree was removed by the owner in the interest of public safety, and it was then that Governor English had a chair made from the wood of the 'Old Oak.'

"On October 19, 1889, an excursion to the Sperry Farm in Woodbridge was arranged for the members of The Quinnipiack Club, and some thirty members attended. In the evening some sixty members assembled in the Club House, and Governor English formally presented the Chair to the Club, President Sperry in behalf of the Club, accepted the Chair, and spoke of the historical interest attached to it."

The Gay Nineties started off on a note of high expectation for members of the Club. The opening of the new club house was celebrated with a round of receptions and social dinners, all of which were preceded on March 22, 1890 by a Special Meeting of the membership called to adopt an amended constitution. The changes in the constitution were designed not to revolutionize club affairs but merely to relate the by-laws to the new conditions of size and capacity which prevailed.

"More stately mansions" exact a price, as the following comparison of direct club costs in the old rented club house and in the new and resplendent home on the Green clearly shows:

	1890 report	*1891 report*
For Service	$ 1,210	$ 4,152
Coal and Wood	165	327
Electric and Gas light	570	1,049
Printing, postage	123	269
Repairs	21	142
Laundry	135	21

Taxes	18	310
Billiards	34	25
Telephone	85	79
Newspapers	111	103
Water	43	34
Insurance	96	121
Supplies	7,770	11,770
Sundries	1,115	484
Rent	1,380	
	Clubhouse	7,401
	$12,876	$26,287

But having embraced new splendors the club went steadily at work to maintain them. The membership of 131 in 1890 had climbed to 202 by May 1891, to 225 at the annual meeting in 1892, and to 227 in 1894. In 1893 the board of governors voted to extend the privileges of the club, upon request, to officers of the Army and Navy on duty in New Haven and to judges of the Supreme and Superior Courts of Connecticut while on duty locally.

The standard club concerns surface now and then in the minutes, but the club's size wrings most personality from the entries at this point. "The House Committee made a special report (January 8, 1894) showing a bulletin ballot by which 12 members voted for and 16 against a fee for billiards. Voted, that the whole matter be laid on the table."

"Voted, that Mr. Phipps and the House Committee be a special committee to report on Ventilating the Cafe."

"Voted, that the free lunches on Saturday nights be discontinued, to be resumed at the discretion of the House Committee."

The latter vote, in January, was followed by another one in December, 1894, which voted that the Saturday night lunches be "re-established".

In this period the Mercantile Club, which had been started in the Seventies, apparently began to face serious difficulties. In April a communication to the Quinnipiack Club inquired about possible arrangements for transfer of memberships. The governors voted to abate the entrance fee for Mercantile members who might apply for Quinnipiack Club membership by July 1. While officers of the Mercantile Club left this offer officially unannounced and struggled with their internal problems, the club slipped out of existence during the summer. In November, 1894, former Mercantile members petitioned the Quinnipiack Club for a renewal of the offer, but the Board, this time feeling its own financial pinch, decided that no further waiver of the entrance fee was possible.

There was discussion that year of raising the steward's salary from $1,500 to $1,800. The club fathers eventually decided to stick with $1,500 as a salary, but to add an extra allowance of $100 for Mr. Beers, with the added understanding "he to come in at 4:30 in the afternoon."

The House Committee, always anxious about the tone of club activities, decreed:

"The only games permitted in any part of the Club House are whist, euchre, ecarte, bizeque, cribbage, piquet, hearts, skat, billiards, pool, chess, checkers, dominoes, backgammon, dominion, setback, and shuffleboard."

In 1897 the tireless Nehemiah D. Sperry stepped down after 20 years as president of the Club. He had been elected

to Congress in 1895 (an assignment he was to hold until 1911). His duties in Washington made his close attention to club affairs difficult — and when Mr. Sperry could not give close attention to all the details of any undertaking with which he was associated he was ill at ease.

In Sperry's place his veteran vice president, George H. Ford, was elected president. There was satisfying continuity in this choice by the club, for Ford was a charter member of the "Ours" Club. He had attended the first meeting in March of 1871 and after all the change, expansion — and success — in the affairs of the Quinnipiack Club it was impressive, and even reassuring, to see in the historic President's Chair a man who had endured and assisted all 26 years of the institution's progress.

The national economic picture was reflected in Quinnipiack finances in 1898 when the club negotiated a $12,000 second mortgage with the Union Trust Company for the purpose of redeeming existing notes to the membership and for other improvement programs.

That same year the War With Spain made a sudden imprint on club records when the governors voted in June to excuse from payment of dues Capt. F. G. Beach — then the club secretary — and Lieut. Allen Osborn. In September at a meeting specially called, a resolution on Capt. Beach's untimely death in Puerto Rico was passed, and in October the same sad testimonial was paid to Lieut. Osborn.

There was discussion in that period of some vague feelers about a consolidation with the Republican League. An appropriation of $200 was voted for a reception to which the League was invited. Whether the party was a success or not is uncertain since nothing ever came of the merger.

A liberal but prudent attitude toward the old hobgoblin of gambling in the club rooms emerges amusingly in the minutes of the Board of Governors' meeting on January 8, 1900. The minutes of the December meeting having been read, they were "amended by striking out that Chairman of the House Committee reported that Room 16 was let to the Poker Game at $20 per month." That deletion being made, the minutes were approved and accepted.

And so the Quinnipiack Club passed from candor in 1899 into the challenges of the new century — with gentle concealment in the minutes and a snug harbor for the skillful and the lucky in Room 16.

The club's willingness to move ahead was tested again in 1901 by a proposition to consolidate the Ansantawae Club and the Quinnipiack. The Ansantawae was a summer club which occupied a handsome, porch-bedecked, frame mansion on the shore, at "Breakwater Beach" in West Haven. It was a pleasant, ginger-bread-style refuge from the city, close enough to be reached by carriage or by trolley car. The proposal was that Ansantawae should cease to exist as a club, that the Quinnipiack Club should lease the property, buildings, dock, and furnishings for three years, paying off the debts of the beach club in the process. Option to lease further or to buy would be given. Ansantawae members would be given the right to join the Quinnipiack Club; with present lady members, or the wives or daughters of deceased Ansantawae members, having continued summer rights at Ansantawae for $24 per year.

The proposition was studied and accepted. And the breezy delights of Long Island Sound at the turn of the century became a part of the Quinnipiack Club's summer-time assets.

The Ansantawae Clubhouse, at "Breakwater Beach" in West Haven. It served as a summer clubhouse for Quinnipiack members between 1901 and 1907.

Members had the privilege, if they wished, of renting at Ansantawae "not more than two rooms for two weeks or less". The price at the beach club was "one dollar per day per room for one person and one dollar and fifty cents per day per room for two persons." Applications were accepted by the club manager, recorded in the order received, and assigned by such careful priority that it implies a constant waiting list.

In this period of Edwardian finery the Chapel Street clubhouse, as attested in a few faded photographs, glowed underfoot with oriental rugs and Axminster carpeting. The

ceilings were all formally bordered and frescoed; the rooms were richly papered in the bold patterned but dark greens and maroons and golds of the era; and the polished brass cuspidor everywhere vies as a grace note with the indoor palm and the rubber plant. Heavy velvet drapes and curtains of lace at the windows, walls studded with wood-framed and gilt-framed paintings; mantels adorned with vases, steins, and figurines were all illuminated by chandeliers of glass-shaded bulbs, like a burst of lilies, when darkness came.

At Ansantawae a somewhat more Spartan summer-cottage effect was apparent in furnishings of oak and mission-wood, the unornamented walls, and the uncovered wood floors. But the rambling porches, two levels of them on three sides of the building, were lined with rocking chairs and tabarets. And out in front the balusters and ball-topped pillars of a graceful white fence ran the length of the property in spun-sugar elegance.

In this period there was an assessment for "art" laid upon all members and the club maintained a special committee to evaluate and to obtain paintings and prints and other objects of art appropriate to the institution.

First discussions of a building-expansion program began about 1901 with examination of plans for a 12-bedroom extension of the Joseph Darling house. But the governors moved cautiously.

There was some talk in the club lounge at that time about a merger with the Union League Club. A joint committee was set up to explore the possibility. In January, 1902 it reported — enthusiastically: recommending a merger, predicting a membership of 1,000, calling for a commodious clubhouse "consistent with the requirements of this com-

munity" and generally reflecting complete confidence in the project. It appraised the buildings and assets of both organizations about equally, and it proposed that legal work be started quickly.

The Quinnipiack Governors — cautious again — voted to refer the report back to the joint committee "with instructions to report a detailed and definite plan and recommendations" on a site, on the financing of such a consolidation, on the estimated cost of a clubhouse, and other such tangibilities.

Hard realities seem to have stalled the committee. It pondered and probed — but eventually the merger proposal lost its appeal in both clubs. The optimism of the initial recommendation of the joint committee was never again quite matched, and with time the whole concept evaporated.

With merger out, the interest in self-expansion of the Quinnipiack facilities revived. Petitions for an elevator and a bowling alley were considered by the board. And on May 18, 1903 a committee on Building Plans was authorized to push "improvements to the club house which shall include bowling alleys, kitchen, private dining rooms, card rooms, and bedrooms." The improvements were to come, mostly, through a four-story addition at the rear of the building. The estimated cost was $25,000 for building and furnishing the new addition.

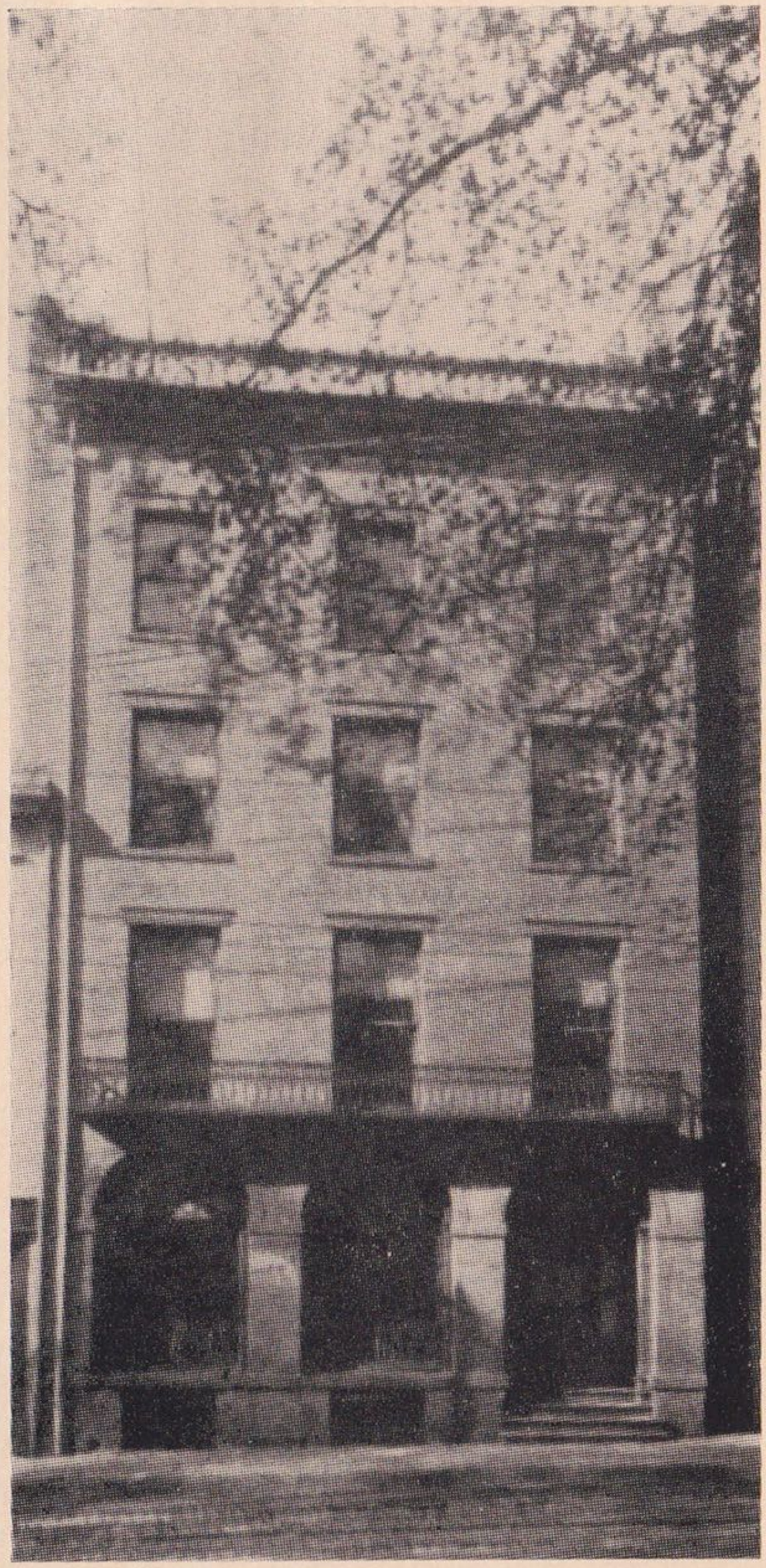
In mid-July 1904 the clubhouse was closed to accommodate the new construction and the working men involved. Temporary quarters were provided through the rental of several rooms, at $250 per month, in the New Haven House next door.

The enlarged club building was reopened in November. The Quinnipiack at that time moved to a policy of no-cash, with payment only by signed check and regular club billing. And to keep up with the increased roominess of the quarters and the heavy club investment in them ($32,000 by report of the Building Committee) there was a further drive for new memberships.

From that time to this, of course, the boast of the bowler has been big within the club, and the subterranean rumble, the crash of the pins, and the whoops of the viewers, have been the same despite the shift from button-shoes and celluloid collars to easy-slide oxfords and banlon turtlenecks.

The rigors of running a big club in the city apparently caused some fading of the salt-sea charms of Ansantawae. The first three-year lease was followed by a second one. But in 1905 and '06 the financial reports show that the summer establishment had become a burden. Ansantawae was an adornment but not a revenue producer, and to it was attributed more than $1,200 of a $2,200 club deficit. In March, 1906 a special meeting of the membership heard a mildly despairing motion that the club pay the Ansantawae Company $1,320 cash simply to get immediate discharge of the lease expiring May 1, 1907. The motion did not carry. So another summer at Breakwater Beach was shared by some Quinnipiack members.

But on May 1, 1907 the lease ran out. The Quinnipiack Club and the Ansantawae Company took a mutual inventory of the shorefront property and its contents, shook hands, and parted. A chapter embellished by blazers, parasols, white button shoes, and straw skimmers came to its close.



The Joseph Darling House, on Chapel Street just below College. This brick mansion, designed by Ithiel Town, was occupied by the club from 1889 until 1931 and was substantially remodeled and enlarged during those four decades of club life.

The financial pinch was reflected by the steady official interest in attracting new Quinnipiack members and in higher club dues. In 1907 the governors voted to raise the

number of resident members of the club to 350, and later in the year the dues were raised $1 per quarter, from $48 to $52 per year. In 1908 there was a further increase to $15 per quarter or $60 per year.

Life inside the club was still full of generous amenities. The Saturday night table d'hote dinner, to music, was $1. Lunch was 50 cents. Bedroom charges were $1.50 and $2 per day, or $7 to $10 per week. Shoes were shined without charge in the bowling alleys. There was a barber at the club "on Sundays from eight o'clock until noon." The first daily mail was received and distributed at 7 o'clock in the morning! "Pyjamas, collars, hankerchiefs, and tooth brushes may be had at the office." The charge for bowling was 5 cents per string per man; for billiards and pool, 10 cents an hour per man. And arrangements for livery service — a carriage or even a riding horse — could be made and charged to a member's club account.

But the pressures of a changing community were again being felt at the Quinnipiack. Down the block the old club quarters in the Shipman House were now occupied by Traeger's Restaurant and Inn, a hostelry whose rooms were jammed every night by a Yale undergraduate community which was steadily increasing in numbers. Most of the old residences along Chapel Street across from the upper Green were being replaced by business buildings with retail shops at the street level.

In September, 1909 the club's governors were quietly asked to consider an offer for the sale of the Quinnipiack property to "parties" interested in the construction of a new hotel next door, on the historic site of the New Haven House. Conversations led to an offer to include substantial

full quarters for the Quinnipiack Club in the proposed new hotel building, perhaps on the College Street side of the structure. In January, 1910, a more specific offer was received, and this time it came not from unidentified parties but from the New Haven Hotel Company. On both sides there were varied elements of reservation and uncertainty. Neither the hotel group nor the club was ever more than tentative in its offers or considerations. And suddenly in March, 1910, the business men, seemingly more influenced by decisions elsewhere than at the club, withdrew their offer and proceeded to push ahead with a narrow Chapel Street frontage and with the main entrance to the proposed Taft Hotel on College Street.

The Club took the decision with aplomb — and probably with some secret relief among the governors who were now able to relax in the armchairs by the Chapel Street windows without danger of second-guessing from either the club's stand-patters or its seekers-after-change. At any rate, they combined the old standard with the new that winter by dispatching to Mr. Harry Whitney a letter of thanks "for his generous gift to the club of a musk-ox head" and by hiring counsel in law and in engineering to protect the club from any damages as the new deep foundations of the Taft Hotel were dug flush against Quinnipiack walls.

In this era the Quinnipiack Club had a close relationship with Yale, its administrators and its faculty. It was a regular reunion headquarters for at least one of the classes each June. A Yale graduate group had presented the club with a punch bowl in appreciation for its contributions to the Yale Bicentennial Celebration. There was intense competition in baseball and in ping pong with the Graduate Club. And (shades of Frank Merriwell) the House Committee was

regularly authorized "to make arrangements with the Yale A.A. for the housing of the Yale coaches including the use of the governor's room when required during the football season." The governor's room was used for the football team's "training table" and provided a nightly controlled diet for the Eli gladiators.

The nature of social events at the club has rarely been explicit in the official records. But in 1911 the Entertainment Committee noted that in addition to the annual banquet it had arranged three entertainments: a vaudeville evening, a New Year's Eve celebration "consisting largely of music and the disbursement of prizes by means of wheels", and a third "entertainment" which was a well-received lecture entitled "Around The World With The Fleet".

The chairman concluded: "I think the day has gone by when entertainments of a vaudeville nature, which have largely been our practice in the past, should be offered exclusively and that during the coming year if the Club went in for more instructive evenings, similar to the last entertainment, they would create greater interest on the part of the members."

In 1911, along with this urge toward uplift in the club's amusements the first typewritten records of Quinnipiack affairs appear. If they were a boon to the secretaries and clerks relieved of longhand entries, they are a boon, also, to the interloping historian. Like all business machines, of course, the typewriter led to a proliferation of recorded detail, permitting pages of entry on items that might have been handled as a brief — if pleasingly ornate — notation by one of the club's earlier penmen.

When the United Illuminating Company became involved in an elaborate illumination of Chapel Street the Quinni-

piack Club voted — strightfaced and without any indication either of enthusiasm or faint praise — to contribute $5 "to the celebration planned for the opening of the so-called White Way". But three months later, in February, 1912, it rejected a $96 assessment from the United Illuminating Company for the two White Way lamps and standards which had been installed on the sidewalk in front of the club.

It was about this same time, too, that a sense of enlarging affairs was introduced by a motion, successfully voted, "to omit the reading of the cents in all figures upon all reports rendered."

As work on the Hotel Taft proceeded, the club and the hotel company agreed on the joint use of an alley between the building and on the mutual use of a fire escape which descended to the club's roof.

In 1913 when William Howard Taft the new President of the United States was in town he was made an honorary member of the Quinnipiack Club.

There were steady modernizations of the building — the purchase of 13 new electric fans for the bedrooms in 1914, the provision of 12 new brass bedsteads in 1915, a shift by United Illuminating from alternating to direct current in 1916. The governors agreed to hire a band for the August baseball game between the Quinnipiack Club and the Graduate Club. The event was so successful that it produced $1,100 for the Lowell House (predecessor of the Farnam-Neighborhood House) and so well-considered that a second game was scheduled by the same teams for the benefit of the United Workers' Boys Club.

As World War I began to cast its steadily darkening shadow across the Atlantic the governors in 1917 decided

to drop the annual dinner. Later in the year they voted to install a news ticker in the lounge; members in military service were exempted from club dues; the House Committee, fretful about food and other shortages, asked and was given authority to buy extra supplies to the amount of $3,000.

In November 1917 the Club took on as an organization effort a special Liberty Loan subscription and members of the Quinnipiack Club individually contributed the exceptional total of $50,900 to the loan drive.

In June it was proposed that the price of the noon lunch be raised from 60 cents to 75 cents. The matter was tabled. It was lifted from the table and discussed in July. It was retabled. Then in August the government imposed sugar rationing; careful filling of the Club sugar bowls became a necessity; and the lunch price went without discussion to 75 cents in September.

For many months there was an argument with the operators of the Hotel Taft over whether or not a "smoke nuisance" existed where the four-story chimney of the Quinnipiack Club wafted upward its kitchen and fireplace vapors against the side of the 12-story Taft. The governors stubbornly resisted any responsibility for the fact that the lofty hotel overhung the club's roof and after long squabbling the issue was settled (in 1923) by the construction — at hotel expense — of a cylindrical black hotel-hugging extension from the chimney of the club to the hotel's roof level.

In August, 1919, with the war over, the president appointed a three-man committee "to present a plan or scheme at the next meeting of the Board of Governors as to a new club house." The committee reported back in October,

noting that it had canvassed the membership on clubhouse possibilities and found most people thought such a move inadvisable.

The annual dues that year were raised to $80. Among the disbursements were one of $30.03 for "repairing and cleaning ox, sheep, and deer heads," and another $5.50 for a frame for the signed photograph of himself which had been presented to the club by the famed comedian, Sir Harry Lauder.

But perhaps the most important development in terms of the club's social life, the Volstead Act became effective. Prohibition was in and the public drought was on. The governors' minutes show that the president appointed the House Committee as a special committee "to arrange for the disposal of the Club liquors." Presumably the job was done. No action involving the liquor shows on the later record.

But a month after the committee was formed the governors glumly voted: "That we do not have a soda fountain."

And thus the Twenties were ushered in at the Quinnipiack Club. In the cafe the bar was closed. The price of the noon lunch went officially to $1. And club dues became $100 a year. Among the improvements authorized for purchase were: a new vacuum cleaner, the first used by the club, an "egg boiling machine", and a telephone booth ($75).

There was constant subsurface action in behalf of more physical changes at the club. There were tentative negotiations with Mr. Hamilton about the property next door — but when the negotiations faltered Hamilton himself built the handsome retail building which still stands. There was a frustrating negotiation with a College Street property

owner who seemed to be trying to swap his holdings for the club's site.

In the last week of November, 1923, George Hare Ford died. He had been president of the Quinnipiack Club for seven years, from 1897 to 1904; and he had been made an honorary member in 1918. But the significant thing was the fact that he had been a charter member of the "Ours" Club and thus had spent 52 years advancing the affairs of the club and participating in its exceptional record of growth. He had outlived the small group of 19 other young men who were his first associates; he and the club had moved beyond the time when lengthy memorial resolutions and a mourning armband were both expressions of club loss; and as with all long survivors the impact of his death was more symbolic than personal in a club generation that did not know him well.

His passing, however, necessarily ended an era — for he was the last to know how it all began.

And the new leaders of the club were concerned, like others before them, with finding their own ways to meet physical change and to accommodate the needs of a growing club in a growing community.

In March, 1924 the governors voted that a committee be appointed to report on the possibility of a further expansion of the club building. An expenditure of $100,000 was contemplated. They explored the matter and apparently reached negative conclusions for after their report the next meeting voted, unanimously, "that the matter be tabled indefinitely."

"Indefinitely", however, is a word which can be compressed as well as extended in its intent. By May there

were new discussions afoot among the governors, and at the end of June a special meeting of the entire club heard an architect outline improvements involving a remodeling of the kitchen, the dining-room, and the coat room, a new lighting plan for the lounge, and the addition of one entire floor of sleeping rooms. The cost of the changes was estimated at about $30,000. But refinancing of other indebtedness indicated that a mortgage up to $75,000 might be needed. The board was authorized, without dissenting vote, to arrange such a loan and to get started on the improvements. The reconstruction and enlargement was completed within a year.

During the Twenties the first of the Quinnipiack Golf tournaments was held for members at the New Haven Country Club. In 1924, for the first time, there is mention of the Entertainment Committee's arrangement for a Quinnipiack car on the train to the Princeton football game. And in 1927 after much informal research and a good measure of committee analysis the club decided to buy its first radio: "a Radiola #28 with loudspeaker and A battery power the entire unit to come at a price of $423 less 10 per cent."

Membership by this time had crept upward to 355, and annual dues were $110. The next year the membership limit was moved to 370.

The effect of Prohibition on the Quinnipiack Club was notable in both financial and social terms. In its financial effects it was debilitating. In the years between 1910 and 1915 the gross profit in the cafe — where most drinks were served — was consistently about $4,000 a year. In 1920, after the first several months of the Long Drought, gross profits dropped to $2,453. But that was only the beginning

as cafe functions in the club and the cafe habit among club members petrified. In 1921 the profits in the cafe slid to $539, in 1924 to $376, in 1926 to $215, and in 1927 to $130. There were related, but less dramatic declines in the profits recorded by the club's main dining rooms as well.

In social terms, club members apparently took the no-drink law seriously and soberly. There is, at any rate, no easy recollection here of the kind of lockers and liquor-laden luggage closets which, according to some Boston club histories, made life in the Hub City more bearable during the Prohibition Era.

In November of 1928 Herbert Hoover was elected to succeed Calvin Coolidge as President of the United States. New Haven, like the rest of the country, was flush with a sense of rising prosperity in spite of some "soft" spots in the economy. Among the officers and members of the Quinnipiack Club the long-felt need for a new clubhouse to replace the 116-year-old Darling mansion — which now needed constant costly repairs — was confidently embraced. Throughout 1929 there was steady application to this problem by the governors and a "committee of fifteen".

When the stock market suddenly broke in October, 1929 there was no initial tremor in the Quinnipiack halls. President George W. Berger and the board met as usual in November. They missed a December meeting for lack of a quorum. And in January they conducted routine business. In early February, though, there was a decision to push the resident membership to 500 and the non-resident membership to another 500 — so the first groundwork could be laid for a new club building project.

And then — with a sturdy disregard for hard luck omens

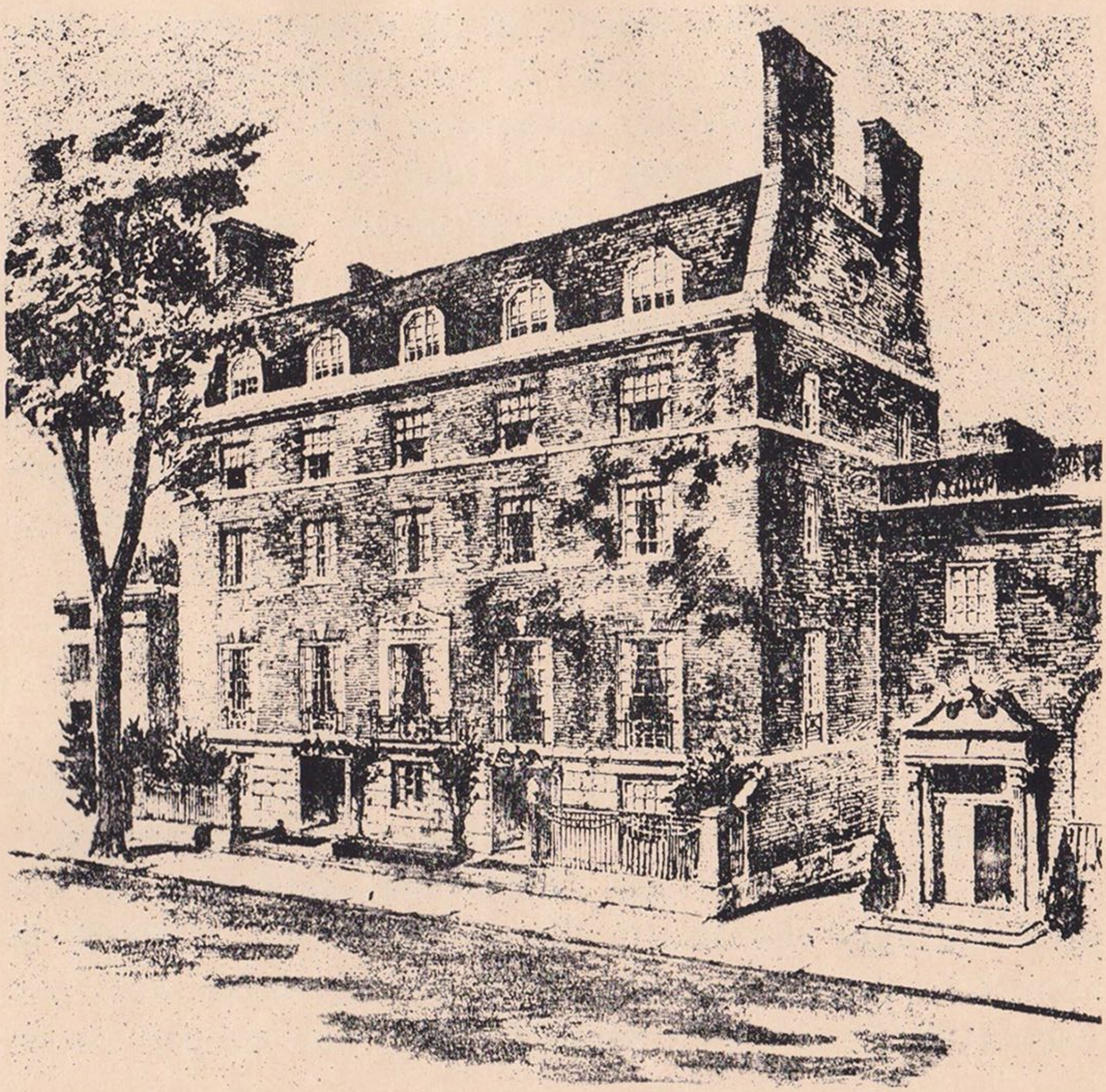
in a time which was increasingly touched by intimations of hard luck — a Special Meeting of the membership was held on Friday, February 13, 1930. It was only three months and 16 days after Black Friday on the New York Stock Exchange. The country was teetering on the edge of the Great Depression — though this was not yet clearly sensed by most Americans. The club leaders were not entirely without nervousness. It is quite clear that they considered the future highly uncertain — but they had already decided that the club could hardly survive in the old clubhouse. They had already narrowed down the choice of a site and had only two possible places in mind. And they had consulted an architect and talked with the community's bankers.

So they pushed on.

The Quinnipiack Realty Corporation was established to handle the complicated realty transactions that would arise from the purchase of a site, the construction of a new clubhouse, and from the sale of the old clubhouse. It was proposed that the Realty Corporation issue $150,000 of capital stock on which it would pay dividends and also issue $150,000 of second mortgage fifty year coupon bonds.

A building committee was appointed. Architect Douglas Orr was engaged. And finally a site at 221 Church Street, across from the County Court House was purchased from the New Haven Water Company.

All of these matters moved forward on so smooth a schedule that on August 11, 1930, six months after the first special meeting, the Building Committee presented before the governors a series of "lantern slides" showing interior and exterior plans and designs for the new building.



The Quinnipiack Club as designed by Douglas Orr and dedicated in 1931. The building is substantially the same in style today although there has been constant modernization of the facilities and some interior remodeling.

"The general style of the building is Georgian along purely traditional lines. It is designed to resemble a large colonial house with a rear wing. Structurally, however, it will be a steel frame fireproof building. It will be faced with red brick and appropriate marble or limestone trim."

In October when bids on the construction were in, some modifications were made on behalf of the budget. The final estimated cost of the building was $304,689, with another $100,000 in furnishings costs anticipated.

On October 2, 1931, one year after the construction started, a brief meeting of the board of governors of the Quinnipiack Club was held in the old clubhouse. It was agreed that the New Haven Community Chest could use the Chapel Street mansion for its headquarters during that year's November fund drive. Secretary L. Cary Slayton concluded his minutes simply:

"This was the last meeting of the board of governors in the clubhouse at 986 Chapel Street."

Ten days later, on October 12, the board held its regular October meeting in the new clubhouse.

The failure to sell the old clubhouse next to The Taft caused pain in the club and the community — particularly in 1932 when the board of governors decided to raze the 120-year-old Darling house and to lease the land as a parking lot. Parking was not the premium consideration it has since become. Bankers wrote letters. Newspapers wrote editorials. Club members protested. But the board stuck to its determination to lighten, in some measure, the club costs which were so heavy. Eventually — in 1936 — Yale purchased the property — but even the change of owners did not remove the parking lot.

It was, of course, inevitable that financial considerations should dominate the concerns of the Quinnipiack's officers during the Thirties. The new clubhouse with its heavy demands for capital and its heavier burden of debt chal-

lenged the ingenuity, the fortitude, the good spirits and the good faith of almost everybody associated with it.

Just at the time when stability was most needed in club revenues, the worsening national economy took its toll of Quinnipiack members — the most faithful as well as the most casual. Between January and December, 1932, 110 resignations were accepted — some of them from men who had worked unstintingly as governors and even as presidents of the club. There were, of course, vigorous recruitment efforts and a determined channeling of potential members toward the club by those who refused to see it go under.

But the combination of difficult club financial problems and disheartening personal financial problems was acute. In the background, always, was solid support from the New Haven banks, but most of all invaluable support from Yale University.

The Board of Governors in the year 1955 voted to transfer the mortgage from Yale University to the First Federal Savings and Loan Association in order to reduce the interest rate from 4½ per cent to 4 per cent. The amount of this mortgage was $80,000.

On February 8, 1965 this mortgage was paid off and the Board of Governors voted to burn the mortgage at the annual meeting in April.

Preceding this jovial ceremony Richard H. Bowerman, then the club president, called upon Richard O. Gibbs to read a financial history of the first 94 years of the Quinnipiack Club which he had prepared. He said in part:

"Four years later (in 1924), it was voted to make improvements to the Club costing $30,000 and the pleasant people

at Yale voted to increase their first mortgage in that amount to cover the expense.

"It was in 1930 that steps were undertaken for the acquisition of the land and the building of these quarters here on Church Street. The cost was to be about $300,000 and Yale agreed once again to lend us the money. Work was begun but a problem developed because nobody wanted to buy the building — over a century old — which had been the old clubhouse on Chapel Street. There is a note that we were able to arrange a temporary bank loan of $160,000 to finance construction, and the new club house was opened with a reception on October 2, 1931. A month later (and since there were still no takers for the Chapel Street property) it was voted to tear down the old club house. These were the depression years, remember, and there wasn't too much business activity. In July of 1933 there was a subscription among the members to raise $18,000 to make certain 'that we will come up to January 1 with all bills paid exclusive of interest on the second mortgage bonds . . .'

"Finally in 1936 . . . the property on Chapel Street was sold to the University for $200,000. Out of the proceeds Yale paid itself $68,000 for the *OLD* first mortgage, gave us a credit of $125,000 on the *NEW* mortgage on our Church Street club house, and the club netted $7,500 in cash! This more or less straightened out our finances — to a point at any rate — and after it was all over we ended up owing Yale $175,000 and the banks and club members $155,000. This total of $330,000 was our all time high."

Another insight into the complexities of the club's financial obligations, and the generous consideration provided by Yale, is found in a review of the arrangements which was

made by Lawrence G. Tighe, treasurer of the University, in a letter about the club's mortgage on January 9, 1950. He was explaining why Yale felt it could not reduce interest rates on the mortgage it then held.

"Prior to 1924 Yale held a mortgage on the property owned by the club . . . in the principal amount of $38,000. During the year 1924, at the request of the club and in order to make improvements, this mortgage was increased to $75,000. In the following 10 years it was reduced through amortization to $68,000.

"When the club built the new building . . . Yale advanced $300,000 secured by a mortgage on the Church Street property. At that time the intention was to sell the Chapel Street property. No market developed for the Chapel Street property, and in 1936 Yale bought it for cash from the club at an appraised value of $200,000. The club used $68,000 of this amount to pay off the mortgage on the Chapel Street property and $125,000 to reduce the mortgage on the Church Street property to $175,000. The balance of $7,000 was retained by the club for its working capital.

"Yale thus became the owner of the Chapel Street property at a cost of $200,000 and the owner of a mortgage on the Church Street property in the amount of $175,000. In 1943 the Chapel Street property was sold for $47,000 and during the time that the University owned it there was a net operating loss of $9,944.82. In addition there was a loss of income on the $200,000 which if we assume a rate of 4 per cent for seven years would amount to $56,000. The total loss therefore was in the neighborhod of $215,000. I would like to point out that if Yale had called the mortgage of $68,000 on the Chapel Street property instead of purchas-

ing it from the club at the astounding figure of $200,000 Yale's loss would have been $15,600 instead of the figure mentioned above, and the Club would have been under such heavy financial strain that it would have been unable to continue operations.

"After the transaction in 1930 no amortization was paid on Yale's mortgage for many years and the University permitted the club to pay off second mortgage notes taken by its members and bank debt, thereby in no way intefering with the necessary financial rehabilitation."

There was an obvious degree of trauma in this for everybody involved. Members of the club familiar with the facts from a close involvement in Quinnipiack financing find the tart Tighe letter a little unfair. When the Chapel Street property first went Yale's way there is no doubt that the University felt it was getting its hands on commercial property of high potential. The Quinnipiack Club's reliance at the time on a solid Yale understanding is also obvious.

The personal problems of the membership during the Great Depression were mirrored in a number of actions by club officers. In 1932 it was decided that resident members could pay their dues by the month instead of in annual or quarterly terms. The move was an effort to keep discouraged and financially-pressed clubmen active on a month to month basis. That year the initiation fee of $100 was cut to $50 for those recruits willing to take on club membership at a time when so many businessmen were finding club obligations dispensable. In 1933 the governors decided to waive the initiation fee entirely for the first 50 applicants accepted as members.

The "premium" nature of this arrangement prompted some

uneasiness among the older members, however, so the waiver of initiation fee simply became standard for all new members. And whether or not this was the sole inducement, it is a fact that between August 29, when the waiver was voted, and December's end a total of 79 new members were admitted — a substantial corps of replacements for those others who were being pushed by economic straits into resigning.

In 1934 consideration was given — briefly — to the idea of a special class of membership for women, but the committee charged with the study reported negatively. More support was found for the establishment of a Junior Membership, for men between 21 and 33 years of age. This was eventually set up, with a limit of 50 on the category.

The now-familiar question of whether or not the Quinnipiack Club and the Union League Club should — or could — merge became a momentary "cause celebre" once again. The *New Haven Register* embarrassed both clubs by publishing a front page story which reported discussions of a merger. President George W. Berger at a special meeting of the governors said "no such proposal was ever made". He added, however, that the officers of the Quinnipiack Club had held an informal luncheon with a committee appointed by the directors of the Union League. He said that the League had been told that "any sort of merger was impossible" but that the Quinnipiack Club would accept a list of Union League members for study; it was concluded from this list that perhaps 50 or 60 members of the Union League might desire Quinnipiack membership and be invited to join.

The *Register*, in its story, pointed out that the city was "over-clubbed" and that there were serious financial prob-

lems in both organizations. But the publicity — whether premature or precisely on target — spiked any general member interest on either side and there was no further action.

By 1937 some of the rigors of the Depression were loosening. There was a vote to restore the $50 initiation fee at the meeting of January 26, 1937. Whether this gave some of the membership recruiters difficulty — and in that period every club member was regularly urged and entreated to produce new members — is not clear. But within 60 days there was some second-thinking about the move and the initiation fee was rescinded. By this time the resident membership fee stood at $150, and had been steadily held there despite the difficulties of the mid-Thirties.

In 1937, also, comes the first evidence of the restoration of drinking at the bar as a club activity. Actually the House Committee had responded quickly enough to the end of Prohibition when Franklin D. Roosevelt became president in March, 1933. But the restoration of liquor came just at the point when the club's cash availabilities were lowest. So a "drinking room" — labeled so — was installed in the basement at the foot of the stairs from the main lobby. A serving bar was improvised against the opposite wall. The furnishings were minimal and mostly make-do. The atmosphere was, in the recollection of one member "mildly apologetic". And through the lean years this served as the club's only official oasis.

In 1937 a special committee explored the club's space requirements, with special emphasis upon more adequate space for a tap room and bar. Its major recommendation was that the billiard room, a carryover of usage and tradi-

tion from the old clubrooms on Chapel Street, be abandoned or relocated and that the "drinking room" be moved to the first floor corner (which it occupies today). There were other recommendations involving everything from the Governors Room to the washrooms, but the tap room proposal was the prime consideration.

The governors were willing to go along with the plan — but they specified that the project must be financed "outside the club treasury". This meant new hurdles. An insistent committee pursued the matter, canvassed the membership, and finally produced — a year later in October, 1938 — pledges of $2,755 to accomplish the work of making a tap room out of the billiard room and providing space elsewhere for the pool and billiard tables.

The rightness of that decision is demonstrated by the fact that the "drinking room's" location has stood the test of some 30 years. It is now known as the Men's Grille. The lessened appeal of billiards and pool was even further emphasized a short time later (in 1940) when the House Committee recommended, after polling the members (and after almost 70 years of club billiards) that the club's felt-topped tables be disposed of and the basement room which they occupied be used for gymnasium equipment.

The Quinnipiack athletic facilities, of course, were a basic part of the new building. Four bowling alleys, a squash court, a handball court, and locker installations were all in the original layout. They have since been backed up by a sauna bath, and steady modernizations of the existing equipment.

In 1939, responding to the general changes in employee expectations and attitudes, the governors adopted the club's

first formal plan for compensating staff members during sickness or disability and for providing paid vacations.

With the turning of the calendar to 1940 the Quinnipiack Club moved into its "modern" period — able at last to enjoy the comfort and the natural congeniality of its quarters without undue financial stresses or exceptional strains upon its membership. The improving financial picture, unfortunately, had partial roots in the industrial buildup of Connecticut as "the arsenal of democracy".

In October, 1940 the governors voted to exempt any member on active military duty from club dues, and by 1941 there was a steady string of applicants for "military classification" presented at each meeting.

The shortages and curtailments of a genuine war situation were quickly felt after the attack on Pearl Harbor. In June the club steward went into military service. He was partly replaced by an experienced waiter; then he was fully replaced. But by September both the steward's replacement and the headwaiter were also heading for duty. The headache of rent-controlled rooms moved in on the House Committee and some adjustments in price were made. Meatless Tuesdays became standard in the club dining rooms after October, 1941. In November one boiler was converted from oil to coal — and a man was hired to stoke the furnace. The House Committee struggled with black-out curtains.

In 1943 membership reached an all-time high of 529 — including the men with military classifications who were now spread out in many parts of the world. Male employees of the club were given permission to use the grassy court at the rear of the club for a Victory Garden. And in August — with memories of the previous winter's uncer-

tainties upon them — the members of the House Committee sought and got authorization to pile a reserve supply of coal in the yard — just beyond the amateur plantings of beans, tomatoes, and radishes.

The one bright side of the picture reflected in the records was the booming business done in the Ladies' Lounge and the Ladies' Dining Room. The shortage of gasoline was discouraging club wives from jaunts to the country clubs, beaches and other rural retreats, and convenient Church Street was more consistently used for its family privileges than ever before.

Ration books were the bane of the club management as they were of every housewife — but good meals, nevertheless, were kept to standard. In 1944 all classes of resident membership — senior, intermediate, and junior — were closed by the board of governors. Prospective members now had to be placed on a waiting list and officially considered as vacancies occurred.

Cigarettes were limited to one pack per day per member — and to prevent temptation for anyone cigarettes had to be charged to each member's bill, and could not be handled as a cash transaction. There was a steady turnover of military officers who had been given the privileges of the club while on duty in this area and club member Joseph T. Marinan, Lt. Col. U.S.A.R. (Rtd.), was made the Quinnipiack's official liaison and unofficial host to these officers.

The hardships of war, the testing and wasting of men, and even the triumphs of the nation are bland upon the club records. And the climax of the titanic clash of armies and ideologies, the end of the cataclysm — in the Fuehrer's fire-scarred bunker in Berlin and in the ominous mushroom

cloud over Hiroshima — is evident in the Quinnipiack archives, alas, only through the appointment of a committee to look into the best and most expeditious arrangement for reconverting the heating plant from coal back to oil.

The years of war took the sheen of newness from the Quinnipiack's atmosphere, and the days of prosperity helped dissolve some of the financial burdens created by the Thirties. In 1946, after more than a decade of inhibition, the $50 initiation fee was restored as a requirement for admission. Early in 1948 a drive was instituted to obtain for the club the outstanding second mortgage bonds in the amount of $123,800 plus the 7,638 shares of stock of the Quinnipiack Realty Company — which were almost entirely held by members of the club. By diligent negotiations with many people this was accomplished in 1949, with most of the mortgage bonds and the stock certificates being generously surrendered by club members at no cost to the club. The project was another one of the quiet but significant forward steps in the elimination of major Quinnipiack financial burdens. The Quinnipiack Realty Corporation, once most useful but latterly a source of tax problems for the club, was finally dissolved in 1951 and its bonds cremated.

In the first years of the Quinnipiack Club's life the "art" assessment and the work of the Arts Committee resulted in a steady flow of paintings and sculpture for the club rooms. With the passage of time quality rather than quantity became a major concern. As of 1970 the club could boast a collection of paintings with an appraised value of $80,000.

The single most valuable item is the George Bellows canvas, "The Palisades", which is part of the club's Pardee Collection. Other significant holdings include a painting of

Sandy Point by the New Haven artist George H. Durrie, who has won most of his fame through the lithographs he provided for Currier and Ives; a fine painting of the New Haven Green by Colin Campbell Cooper, and a sound collection of regional works. Among the interesting miscellany in the club is a portrait in burnt wood of Yale president Arthur Twining Hadley by the distinguished sculptor Jo Davidson.

The handsome grandfather's clock which graces the main stairway was first installed in 1947 — an heirloom gift from Robert Hodge, whose son Hubert later became club president.

A "take-it-or-leave-it" attitude on television was manifested when a special committee reported in 1948 that a television set appropriate for the Men's Grill could be had for $1,500 — and the minutes then lapsed into silence on the matter for 23 months. In November, 1950, the installation of a TV set was finally approved "at an expense not to exceed $500."

For several years in this period there was recurring debate about a proper policy for serving the ladies of the club. After long consideration it was finally decided — by vote on December 18, 1950 — that ladies will be served cocktails in the reception room or in the ladies' dining room whether or not accompanied by a gentleman. Luncheon, drinks, or dinner in the main dining room demand the presence of an escort. And the grille room, of course, is open only on specifically stated occasions.

There have been other ups and downs in the tempo of club activities and concerns through the Fifties and the Sixties. The first professional study of the club's opera-

tional methods — its food purchases, its beverage controls, its other procedures and requirements — was contracted-for in 1952.

The Men's Grille which today is one of the favorite Quinnipiack meeting places, was refurbished and expanded in 1953. An efficient, professionally designed bar was installed — absorbing in the process one of the barber-chairs and other accoutrements of the barber shop off the lobby. The total improvement of the Men's Grille at a cost of $17,000 became a significant bargain in terms of the lively new center of sociability which it created.

Probably the biggest step forward in the Sixties was the top-to-bottom air conditioning of the building. This was a complex engineering project which required a vast amount of study, review, and financial planning. But it was — and is — one of the factors which contribute to the continuing vitality of the Quinnipiack Club.

Few clubs this size can boast the kind of facilities available at 221 Church Street. The "health club" and sauna is one of the most recent adaptations to changing club interests and needs. But the 35 guest rooms, which were part of the original 1930 design, are also a measure of the "something extra" which persists at the Quinnipiack Club. No other club in Connecticut, and few others in the northeast, have such extensive guest facilities.

By their very number the rooms also encourage much more actual club residency than most modern clubs enjoy or can provide. An average of about 11 self-styled "inmates" have made the Quinnipiack Club their residence in recent years — and they consider themselves a favored few on that account.

As New Haven became less a city and more a region, the circle of Quinnipiack Club involvement and service has also grown wider. The club day's zenith is now between 12 and 2 o'clock when the Quinnipiack's role as a noonday forum is unchallenged. The mornings are relatively drowsy and sunlit. The evenings, of course, are busy but more relaxed. What started as an "after-eight" meeting group to pass a gentlemanly evening is now a round-the-clock center.

The Quinnipiack Club today is a "city" club — which gives it in the Nineteen Seventies a function like that of the Greek agora or the Roman forum, the function of providing a friendly meeting place, close to the centers of trade and industry, where citizens of varying responsibilities and interests can come together for food, for friendship, and for the mutual consideration of community affairs.

Through a hundred years the club has changed tremendously in its concept, in the services it provides its members, and in the creature comforts it affords. But through a hundred years, also, it has remained remarkably consistent in its ability to draw together a circle of members who believe in it, and in New Haven, and who serve both well. It takes pride in the name it has drawn from the Indian camp that John Davenport's puritan followers found in "the wilderness" — Quinnipiack. And it finds its spirit, too, in the mutuality and the fellowship of the name its founders first tried in 1871 — "Ours".

PRESIDENTS SINCE ORGANIZATION

1871 —Fred B. Mallory
1872-1873—G. Edward Hine
1874 —H. W. Whittelsey, Jr.
1875 —F. A. Monson
1876-1897—Nehemiah D. Sperry
1898-1903—George H. Ford
1904-1905—William L. Bennett
1906-1907—Lewis H. English
1908 —Augustus H. Kimberly
1909-1911—William S. Pardee
1912-1913—George J. Bassett
1914-1915—Harry V. Whipple
1916 —Edgar L. Hartpence
1917-1918—Thomas B. Oliver
1919 —John B. Tower
1920-1921—Vernal W. Bates
1922 —W. Perry Curtiss
1923-1925—George M. Gunn
1926-1934—George W. Berger
1935-1938—John R. Demarest
1939 —George S. Hawley
1940-1941—Ernest L. Simonds
1942-1943—William B. Gumbart
1944 —Harry W. Dorigan
1945 —Henry W. Jones, Jr.
1946-1947—Percy R. Jacobs
1948 —Theodore D. Shapleigh
1949 —Emerson L. Munson
1950 —Frank R. Nieman
1951 —Milton P. Bradley
1952 —Carl W. Taylor
1953 —George J. Gray
1954 —J. Coy Reid
1955 —Ernest A. Johnson
1956 —Harold A. Davis
1957 —Thomas A. Sturgess
1958 —Charles H. Costello
1959 —Walter C. Wardner
1960 —Frank O'Brion
1961 —Donald F. Bradley
1962 —James Q. Bensen
1963 —Frederick T. Backstrom
1964 —Richard H. Bowerman
1965 —C. Theodore Trolin
1966 —William F. Geenty
1967 —George H. Coe
1968 —Robert I. Metcalf
1969 —Hubert C. Hodge
1970 —Robert W. Knott
1971 —Charles E. Woods, Jr.

Shilling
1638